



Memo

Date: March 23, 2015

To: State Coastal Conservancy

From: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer

CC: Oversight Legislators

RE: [Draft Strategic Plan Update](#)

Staff prepared a [draft update](#) to the 2013 Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan to include funding priorities for Proposition 1 expenditures, to update our Climate Change objectives, and to include the newly created Santa Ana River Conservancy Program.

When our current five-year Strategic Plan was written, we did not predict the passage of Proposition 1, the water bond, which provides \$100.5 million to the Conservancy to support multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects. The revised Strategic Plan identifies four priorities for Proposition 1 expenditures. Selection of these four project areas is based on:

- Overlaying the purposes of Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 with the programmatic authorities in the Conservancy's enabling statute, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code;
- A review of the relevant the priority issues within our jurisdiction;
- A reviewing existing state plans, particularly the California Water Action Plan;
- Consideration of what sorts of projects are most likely to achieve multiple benefits, serve disadvantaged communities, and result in quantifiable outcomes.

Based on the foregoing, we have selected these four priorities:

- Water Sustainability
- Anadromous Fish
- Wetland Restoration
- Urban Greening

Each of these priorities is described in the Strategic Plan Update along with a discussion of how it relates to the existing Strategic Plan, the California Water Action Plan and the Safeguarding California Plan. Numeric objectives in the Strategic Plan have been updated to reflect Proposition 1 expenditures.

The current Strategic Plan was also written before the Conservancy launched its “Climate Ready” grant rounds for projects reducing climate change or addressing its projected impacts. The response to the Climate Ready Program has been overwhelming, and this update revises the numeric objectives for Goal 7 to better reflect the demand for climate adaptation projects. Finally, SB 1390 created the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program to address the resource and recreational goals of the Santa Ana River corridor. This update includes additional objectives related to implementation of the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program.

The draft update has been posted on the Coastal Conservancy’s website and staff will accept public comments on the draft until May 1st. Based on direction from the Conservancy and public comments, a revised draft will be presented for possible adoption at the Coastal Conservancy’s June 25th meeting.